

Amendments To The Claims

1.(currently amended) A method, comprising:

detecting the thickness of a parcel that includes a sheet print medium in an envelope or other packaging;

determining the number of sheets in the parcel based on a relationship between the thickness of the parcel and the number of sheets in the parcel;

accessing weight data for the sheet print medium and the packaging;

determining computing the weight of the parcel based on the determined number of sheets in the parcel and the weight data accessed for the sheets and the packaging;

accessing postal rates according to parcel weight; and

determining computing postage for the parcel based on the accessed postal rates and the determined weight of the parcel.

2.(canceled)

3.(canceled)

4.(currently amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

detecting a metal binder in the parcel; and

accessing weight data for the metal binder; and wherein

determining the weight of the parcel comprises determining the weight of the parcel based on the determined number of sheets in the parcel, the metal binder detected in the parcel and the weight data accessed for the sheets, the packaging and the metal binder.

5.(original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising applying the postage to the packaging.

6.(currently amended) A method, comprising:

accessing postal rates according to parcel weight;

accessing weight data for different types of print media and different types of envelopes;

detecting the thickness of a parcel that includes one type of print media in an envelope;

determining the number of sheets in the parcel based on a relationship between the thickness of the parcel and the type of print media in the parcel;

computing the weight of the parcel based on the determined number of sheets in the parcel and the weight data accessed for the sheets and the envelope; and

computing postage for the parcel based on the accessed postal rates and the computed weight of the parcel.

7.(currently amended) The method of Claim 6, further comprising:

accessing weight data for different types of metal binders; and

detecting at least one type of metal binder in the parcel; and wherein

computing the weight of the parcel comprises computing the weight of the parcel based on the determined number of sheets in the parcel, the metal binder detected in the parcel and the weight data accessed for the sheets, the envelope and the metal binder.

8.(original) The method of Claim 6, further comprising applying the postage to the envelope.

9.(canceled).

10.(currently amended) A method, comprising:

accessing postal rates according to parcel weight;

accessing weight data for different types of print media and different types of envelopes;

detecting the thickness of a parcel that includes one type of print media in an envelope;

scanning the parcel to determine its planar size;

computing the weight of the parcel based on the accessed weight data and the detected thickness and scanned size of the parcel; and

computing postage for the parcel based on the accessed postal rates and the computed weight of the parcel.

11.(canceled)

12.(currently amended) A postage computing system, comprising:

a thickness gauge positioned to measure the thickness of a parcel;
a postage meter positioned to apply postage to the parcel; and
a computer electronically connected to the thickness gauge and the postage meter, the computer configured to access weight data for parcel media and packaging, compute the weight of the parcel based on thickness data received from the thickness gauge, access postal rates according to parcel weight, compute postage for the parcel based on the computed weight of the parcel and the accessed postal rates and transmit the postage to the postage meter.

13.(original) The system of Claim 12, further comprising a metal detector electronically connected to the computer, the metal detector positioned to detect metal in the parcel, and wherein the computer is further configured to access weight data for metal binders and compute the weight of the parcel based on thickness data received from the thickness gauge and metal data received from the metal detector.

14.(original) The system of Claim 12, further comprising a scanner electronically connected to the computer, the scanner positioned to detect the planar size of the parcel, and wherein the computer is further configured to compute the weight of the parcel based on thickness data received from the thickness gauge and size data received from the scanner.

15.(currently amended) A computer program product for computing postage, the product comprising a computer useable medium having computer machine readable instructions thereon that when executed by the computer cause the computer to for:

receive receiving data representing the thickness of a parcel;

access assessing weight data for parcel media and packaging;

compute computing the weight of the parcel based on the received thickness data and the accessed weight data;

access assessing postal rates according to parcel weight; and

compute computing postage for the parcel based on the computed weight of the parcel and the accessed postal rates.